A True Relation of the most horrid murder committed by Mr. George Strangeways on the person of his Brother in Law Mr. George Fussill.

THy first sin Remarkable in the posterity of Adam was a crying sin: the blood of Abel cryed unto Heaven for vengeance: No doubt but that Cain before had committed many actuall transgressions. Sin lyeth at the doore, (saith God) Mark what hath Sin and the punishment thereof doth make to overtake the sinner. We do here find Sin lying at the door when there was scarce a man in the world.

The shedding of blood is a sin that lyeth at the door of the Conscience, and knocketh thereat as loud as thunder, but cannot

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in sinning doth take away the sence of sin, in a man or a woman of a bloody spirit one murder doth make way for another. There are some whose hands have been so red in their brothers blood that ever since they have delighted in committing of murders, horrid murders, and these Tyrants though after their death they have their portratures counterfeited to the life, and monuments raised even in the Temple of God, to eternize their Names, yet they go in a most crosse and opposite way even to the principles and practices of Nature: It is the indeavour of nature to preserve her self, now what can be more contrary to this indeavour then to destroy one another which is to destroy Nature. And we shall find God so tender in the shedding of blood, that his Commandements are alwayes, and expresly against it.

We shall find that David was not permitted to build a Temple unto the living God, because he had his hand in Blood, although it was covered with a scarlet globe, and red onely in the blood of his Enemyes, and of the Enemyes of God.

The Children of Israel were forbidden to eat any thing in which was The blood,

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bundant Examples, and no Ages have been exempted from giving many remarkable demonstrations of it.

We need not goe into Forraign Countryes to fetch Illustrations to prove the truth. It is not yet two years since that most notorious murder was committed by Nathaniel Butler on the person of his dear friend and Companion John Knight. The bloody design being but in Execution, how was his conscience tormented with the horror and the apprehension of his guilt, he shall find it was so much startled that he was not able either to tarry at home or to go abroad. What a deep Impression did the blood of his Friend leave upon his soul? How many tears did he shed to purge it? How unquiet was his Soul and how perplexed his body which could find no rest but by death only.

This so startled him, that he could find no Intermission, no respits. And many in this manner being tormented in their consciences do need no further discoverys it being impossible for them to be at quiet until they do discover themselves, and offer themselves a Sacrifice to the Justice which they have violated.

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Somotimes murders have been discovered be the Fowls of the Ayre, In the same manner. a Gentleman of Nortolke Ralph Tuckey by name, having murdered one who (as he said) had done him great injury could not afterwards be satisfied with in himself.

Walking one day in the field he beheld a Company of Crows flying by him. and making such a noyse as they are accustomed to do when they flye in Flocks The noyse they made was but ordinary, but the guilt of this murder was extraordinary, for reflecting upon the horrour of his fact and applying all things to himself. he did conceive that the Crows did articulately reprove and tax him for his murder.

Walking not long afterwards to a town called Burnham, he beheld three or four more Crows flying by him, and making ye same noyse as the former the apprehension whereof working upon the guilt of his conscience did so much affright him, that of himself he expressed words which did carry in them an interpretation of some horrible crime committed, of which notice being taken by a stander by, he was presently had before a Justice, to whom he confessed his

long concealed murder, and said moreover that though his tongue should deny it, yet his conscience would proclaim it.

Having confessed it, he seemed to be a great ease by discharging himself of an inward burden that so greatly did oppress him, and which seemed to be more grievous unto him then death it self. for this fact afterwards he was condemned at Thetford Assizes and Executed acordingly.

If you please to descend into the Theater of execrable murders, it present you with a history more rare and remarkable then the former. It will give you the sight of a cruell and a Coveteous man, who to make himself Master of the Estate of his Brothers Son, did undertake the pretence of hunting, drew him into a wood, where most inhumanly he did bereave him of his life, and buryed him under a great Oak. This being done, he caused it to be divulged abroad, ẏ his Kinsman having a youthfull desire to see noveltyes, and the government of Forraign Countryes was travelled beyond the Seas and in his absence had ordained him to be Overseer of his Estate, being very sorry that he could no wayes diverty from such a rash and heady Journey,

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This Report was entertained into the belief of all his kindred, and did continue currant for certain years.

At the last he caused it to be rumoured y his kinsman was dead beyond the Seas, and being the only heir that was left, he for many years without any disturbance did inherit his Estate; but not without the manifestation of some visible Judgment from heaven upon him, for his Children all of them dyed, they no sooner came into the world but they departed out of it. It was the wt of Justice that he should be left childelesse himselfe who had destroyed his Brothers Child to Enrich his own Family.

In the processe of time walking in those fields wh'ch so unjustly he had possessed, & thinking himself secure and free from all dangers whatsoever, Behold where two Ravens soaring over his head did by degrees stoop lower and lower to it, as they came more nèr unto him, the sight of them was strange unto him. but the noyse they made was terrible, he used all the meanes that possible he could to fright them from him, but neither the shots which he made, nor the noyse of the Gun would prevaile for the Ravens hovered still over his head & were nèr unto him either on the the one

flac of him, or the other. As he was entring into his house they made a great noyse, and soaring upwards they wheeled about the house and then pearched on the top thereof. He caused them to be shot at, but they were not hurt, and if they rose from the top of the house they presently again would alight upon it.

Night coming on he entertaines a hope that they would be gone, and commanding horses to be made ready, he withdrew himself with his ordinary train of Servants to another place, but all in vain, for these two dreadful and croaking Summoners still attend him.

On the morning following he offered a round Sum of mony to any one that could kill these Ravens, which although it was often Attempted as before, yet could never be effected.

At the last his hope and his heart fainted and growing into dispair, he confessed the murder he had committed, His words at first was interpreted as proceeding from a man who had lost his health and sence, but the place in the wood being searched, where he acknowledged that he had buryed un[illegible] Brothers Son, after a little digging in the grou[illegible]

ground the Spade grated against the skull and severall bones was taken up, which no sooner were brought unto the house where the murderer was, but the two Ravens having done the businesse in which the divine Providence did imploy them, did fly away and they were seen no more.

The murderer being dragged to the Jayl was brought not long after wards before the Court of Justice where being condemned to the Gibet, he answered for the guilt of his fact with the forfeit of his life.

Sometimes wee shall find that Doggs have beene made instruments to bring to light notorious murders that have beene committed. Sometimes a a minute things have beene made instrumentall for the discovery of them: the bloody knife hath been known though not the hand which committed such and such a murder, and in this sad story which wee come now to relate. the Gun did report the murder, though not the murderer.

Mr, Fussell was an Attorny of Dorcetshire, and known to be an eminent Practitioner in the Law, he married the sister of Mr. George Strangways of the same County, against whom having commenced

a Suit in Law and followed it with some vehemence, it so exasperated Mr. George Strangwayes that he did challenge him into the Field to fight with him and offered him advantage in the length of the weapon. Mr. Fussell finding himselfe in this distresse, and being bred up rather to the Arts of Peace, and to the formality of the Gown then of the Sword, did indite and informe against him at the publike bench of Justice, which returned Mr. George Strangwayes so implacable that he would to be reteined of him, which made Mr. Fussell so sensible of the condition wherein he was, that he thought he could not be carefull enough of the safety of his own person. Nevertheless the Terme called Hillary Terme approaching, his occasions were so importunate that he was inforced to come up to London for the better prosecution of some suits in Law depending in the Courts of Justice at Westminster: which Mr. George Strangways understanding stayed not long behind him, but came up to London, and understanding where he lodged he contrived with himselfe which was his best way to bring his resolution about. He was loath to affront him publikely in the streets least com-

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ary comming in (as the streets in the time of Terme and Parliament are full of passengers) he should be protected in the execution of his cruell enterprize, or such publike notice might be taken of him that by course of Law Mr. Fussell might be inabled to walk abroad with more security.

To carry on his design therefore with more privacy, he conceited it to be most expedient for him to act by night, knowing that night covereth all villany. In this apprehension a long Gun was bought and charged with a brace of Bullets, and Mr. Fussell being in his Chamber about nine of the Clock at night, one standing on the Pewterers stall neare unto his Chamber, did shoot him through the head, that he fell down dead without speaking a word. Mr. George Strangwayes whose Sister (as I have said) Mr. Fussell had married was the very same night apprehended upon suspition by reason of the enmity that was at that present betwixt them about suits in Law, &c. but he constantly denyed the fact, and when he was brought to the dead body he by before the Coroner, and by him required to view and handle it, and the wounds in his head he continued constant in the deny

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all of the Fact without the least alteration of countenance. Nebertheleſſe on Monday Feb. the 21. a perſon who bought the Gun and who by the ſecret working of Gods Providence (which is ſeldome wanting to make diſcovery of ſuch bloody crimes) did come again to the ſhop of the ſame Gun Smith and was there apprehended and carried to Newgate, upon which Mr. George Strangwayes acknowledged that it was the finger of God, and confeſſed the Fact, ſince which he hath in a Letter impaſte his mind to a worthy Member of Parliament who married another Siſter of his, which followeth in theſe Words.

Deare Brother,

I Hope theſe Lines and preſſing Death will ſo farre expiate my Crime, as to procure your, and my other Friends forgiveneſſe, for my conſcience beareth me witneſſe, I was provoked by many of my Brother in Laws unſufferable wrongs. After divers parleys finding his inveterate ſpleen ſo implacable as to indite & informe againſt me at the open Bench, my fleſh and blood had no longer patience but fought to uſurpe that revengfull attribute which

God appropriates to himself when he would not answer me in single Combate, though I offered him advantage in length of weapon, yet this I will assure you that I did not intend his death but by discharging of a warning peece, to have onely terrified his heart from practising such litigious suits, and thereby to let him know he was at another mans mercy if he continued the same.

In a word each man oweth a death, yea two by this untimely fact; the one to my maker, and the other to the Law, which invokes me to pay the one more willingly, being confident that the other is cancelled by the all seeing eye of the divine mercy, and justice, these in short are the last words of your dying brother, Geo. Strangewaies

From the Presse yard in Newgate.

Feb. 23. 1658

On Munday Feb. 28. Mr. Strangwayes having conferred oftentimes with some Magistrates of supream power in the City was brought down into the Dungeon, There were before with him, the Sheriffs of the City, and Doct. Wild and some other reverend Divines, But at the time of his Execution there was none with him but Doct.

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Warmiſter with whom there was differanee in poynts of Religion, but he deſired the Doctor to pray for him.

When his feet and his hands were to be ſtretched forth, he ſpake moſt chriſtianly. Thus were my Saviours hands and Feet ſtretched for me, It ſeems he had not the ordinary mercy which is accuſtomed unto malefactors who dye in that maner of puniſhment, His offence indeed was grievous, but having committed his ſoul to God, in whom alone he was aſſured of mercy. he held forth his hand as if he deſir'd for more weight: which by degrees did fall on him at the firſt. And thus full of the hopes of enjoying mercy in the world to come he departed this life to the great grief of all that beheld him.

The End.